REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 12 remain herein. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 also remain herein, but are currently withdrawn from consideration.

1. Claims 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Honma '848 and Chu '629. The Office Action admits that Honma '848 fails to teach or suggest "said EOB detector for outputting the position of the non-zero quantized frequency component in the predetermined scanning order as a control signal to the quantizer and the encoder," as recited in claim 5. In Honma '848, the EOB detecting circuit (804a-d) outputs signals(100a-d) to the coding selecting circuit 806. Fig. 17A of Honma '848 fails to disclose that the coding circuit 803 receives any control signal from the EOB detecting circuit 804.

The Office Action alleges that the use of the EOB signal described in Chu '629 fills the deficiencies of Honma '848. Col. 14, lines 47-59 of Chu '629 describe coding based on receipt of an EOB signal. However, the coding operation described in Chu '629 takes place after quantization. See Chu '629, Fig. 13, 374; col. 14, lines 60-68. In Chu '629, quantization takes place without receiving an EOB signal. Thus, Chu '629 fails to teach or suggest "said EOB detector for outputting the position of the non-zero quantized frequency component in the predetermined scanning order as a control signal to the quantizer and the encoder," as recited in applicants' claim 5.

Claim 6 is patentable over Honma '848 and Chu '629 by virtue of its dependency from claim 5.

Claim 9 similarly recites, "quantizing the frequency components up to said position in the predetermined scanning order" and "variable length coding the quantized frequency components up to said position in the predetermined scanning order." As discussed above with respect to claim 5, Honma '848 and Chu '629 fail to disclose or suggest outputting the EOB detection result for quantization and variable length coding. Thus, claim 9 is patentable over Honma '848 and Chu '629.

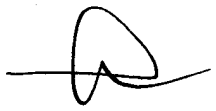
Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Honma '848, Chu '629 or anything else in this record, of all elements of applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in any of Honma '848, Chu '629 or anything else in this record that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Still further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of these references, and no sound basis stated in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 5,6 and 9 are respectfully requested.

2. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Honma '848, Chu '629 and Kobayashi '408. Kobayahsi '408 is cited as allegedly disclosing only an image encoding method on a computer readable medium. Kobayahsi '408 fails to disclose what is missing in Honma '848 and Chu '629, as noted above with respect to claim 5. Thus, claim 12 is patentable over Honma '848, Chu '629 and Kobayashi '408.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP



Date: November 12, 2008

Roger W. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 25,177
Daniel W. Shim
Reg. No. 56,995

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 429-3000
Fax: (202) 429-3902

Attorney Docket No.: 28951.1134